

Board of Health Report – February 2022
Public Health Nursing Division, Lowell Health Department

*Submitted by Public Health Nurse Manager
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A. Communicable diseases reported

The following table is a summary of the number of cases of each communicable disease reported to the Lowell Health Department via the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN).

*Note: All counts are classified as **confirmed** events unless otherwise specified. MDPH case classification manuals can be accessed [here](#).*

Disease	Dec. 2021	Jan 2022 MTD (1/27/22)	2022 YTD (1/27/22)	2021 total
Amebiasis	0	0	0	0
Anthrax	0	0	0	0
Arbovirus (other)	0	0	0	0
Avian Influenza	0	0	0	0
Babesiosis	0	1 suspect	1 suspect	2 suspect
Borrelia miyamotoi infection	0	0	0	0
Botulism	0	0	0	0
Calicivirus/Norovirus	0	0	0	4
Campylobacteriosis	0	0	0	12 confirmed 3 probable
Clostridium perfringens	0	0	0	0
Cryptococcus neoformans	0	0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	1	2	2	11
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	0
Dengue Fever	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
Eastern equine infection	0	0	0	0
Ehrlichiosis	0	0	0	
Encephalitis	0	0	0	1 suspect
Enterovirus	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis	0	2 probable	2 probable	6 confirmed 2 probable
Glanders	0	0	0	0
Group A Streptococcus	1 confirmed 7 revoked 1 suspect	3 revoked	3 revoked	7 confirmed 22 revoked 1 suspect
Group B Streptococcus	0	0	0	6 confirmed 4 revoked
Haemophilus Influenzae	0	0	0	1 confirmed
Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)	0	0	0	0
Hantavirus infection	0	0	0	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	1 suspect

Hepatitis B	11 probable	6 probable	6 probable	12 confirmed 21 contact 101 probable 6 revoked 2 suspect
Hepatitis C	3 confirmed 6 probable 5 revoked	1 confirmed 7 probable	1 confirmed 7 probable	37 confirmed 54 probable 111 revoked
Hepatitis D	0	0	0	1 suspect
Hepatitis E	0	0	0	1 suspect
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	0	0	0	2 confirmed 3 revoked 5 suspect
Influenza	221 confirmed 1 suspect	44	44	238 confirmed 1 contact 1 suspect
Invasive bacterial infection (other)	0	0	0	0
Legionellosis	0	0	0	1
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	34 suspect
Lymphocytis choriomningitis	0	0	0	0
Malaria	0	1	1	6 confirmed
Measles	0	0	0	1 revoked
Melioidosis	0	0	0	0
Meningitis – Unknown Type	0	0	0	2 suspect
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	0	0
Monkeypox	0	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0	1 revoked
Novel coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc.)	4267 confirmed 90 contact 365 probable 34 suspect	7712 confirmed 8 contact 1073 probable 22 suspect	7712 confirmed 8 contact 1073 probable 22 suspect	15177 confirmed 4008 contact 1309 probable 5 revoked 193 suspect
Pertussis (and other Bordatella species)	0	0	0	1
Plague	0	0	0	0
Polio	0	0	0	0
Powassan virus infection	0	0	0	0
Psittacosis	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	0	0	0	0
Rubella	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	0	0	0	11
Shiga toxin producing organism	0	0	0	1 suspect
Shigellosis	0	0	0	1
Staphylococcal Enterotoxin	0	0	0	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae	0	0	0	2 confirmed
Tetanus	0	0	0	0
Toxic shock syndrome	0	0	0	0
Toxoplasmosis	0	0	0	0

Varicella	3 suspect	1 probable 1 suspect	1 probable 1 suspect	3 probable 2 revoked 5 suspect
Vibrio sp.	0	0	0	2
Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers	0	0	0	5 contact 2 revoked
Viral Meningitis (aseptic)	0	0	0	7 suspect
West Nile Virus Infection	0	0	0	1 revoked
Yellow fever	0	0	0	0
Yersiniosis	0	0	0	1
Zika Virus Infection	0	0	0	0

**denotes case is connected to a foodborne illness investigation*

B. Tuberculosis (TB) cases reported

The following table is a summary of the number of cases of active and latent TB disease reported to the Lowell Health Department via the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN).

Disease	Dec. 2021	Jan 2022 MTD (1/27/22)	2022 YTD (1/27/22)	2021 total
TB Active	0	2 suspect	2 suspect	9 confirmed 10 revoked 1 suspect
TB LTBI	34 confirmed 7 suspect	12 confirmed 3 suspect	12 confirmed 3 suspect	392 confirmed 30 contact 1 revoked 67 suspect

C. Current TB caseload

As of 1/27/22 at 1600, the Public Health Nursing Division is following a total of 9 suspect/confirmed cases of active TB.

- Of the 9, **7** cases are currently on antibiotic therapy and receiving DOT or check-ins at least once per week virtually via WebEx and/or in person.
- Of the 9, 1 will be revoked if their cultures remain negative for TB after 60 days.
- Of the 9, 1 is waiting to be seen at the TB clinic.

D. Refugee arrivals reported

The following table is a summary of the number of refugees and refugee families reported to the Lowell Health Department via the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN).

	Dec. 2021	Jan 2022 MTD (1/27/22)	2022 YTD (1/27/22)	2021 total
Total families	8	0	0	62
Total persons	23	0	0	139

E. Immunizations given

The following table is a summary of the number of patients vaccinated by the Lowell Health Department as reported to the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS).

*Note: Immunizations are counted by the number of patients who received 1 or more doses of the vaccine type indicated during the given time frame. For multi-dose vaccines (such as the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines), each patient is counted only once for the 2-dose series; thus, the total of **doses** administered may be greater than what is reported below.*

Vaccine type	Dec. 2021	Jan 2022 MTD (1/27/22)	2022 YTD (1/27/22)	2021 total
COVID-19	150	119	119	5970
Influenza	17	8	8	189

F. Public Health Nurse/Manager activities

a. Staffing

- i. In the past month I have on-boarded 2 new Contact Tracers. I am preparing to on-board 1 new Public Health Nurse. We are continuing to interview to fill 2 more Public Health Nursing positions. I continue to develop orientation materials for new Public Health Nursing, Contact Tracing, and Epidemiology staff.

b. Vaccination

- i. Held weekly clinics on Tuesday evenings from 4pm-7pm at the Health Department.
- ii. Attended weekly VEI meeting and bi-weekly

c. COVID-19 contact tracing

- i. Shifted focus of contact tracing primarily to cases and clusters in high risk settings, such as childcares centers, long term care facilities, and shelters.
- ii. Worked with Emergency Planning and representatives from the software company Everbridge to develop a phone call/text message notification system for Lowell residents diagnosed with COVID-19. The notification is sent to all new cases of COVID-19 each workday and includes basic instructions on isolation and identifying close contacts, and links the recipient to our FAQ page at lowellma.gov/covidhelp. Recipients can then call and be connected to a contact tracer if they need additional guidance. The purpose of the notification is to help ensure that as many residents as possible received accurate and timely guidance.

d. Miscellaneous

- i. Attended Greater Lowell Health Alliance's quarterly Board of Directors for my first meeting as the representative from the City of Lowell.
- ii. Re-enrolled in the state vaccine program (acceptance received 1/25/22)
- iii. Attended webinar on Tuberculosis Evaluation of Persons with Class A/B TB Conditions
- iv. Attended bi-weekly check-in with UMass Lowell Health and Wellness
- v. Attended weekly VEI and bi-weekly VEI community engagement check-ins with DPH